

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date:	May 17, 2023
Time:	6:30PM
Location:	City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

Members of the public may view the meeting via LTC and those wishing to speak regarding a specific agenda item shall register to speak in advance of the meeting by sending an email to the Superintendent indicating the agenda item, a phone number and email address so we can provide a zoom link to access the meeting. Email address is mpalazzo@lowell.k12.ma.us. If no access to email you may contact us at 978-674-4324. All requests must be submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:37 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Thompson, Ms. Chhoun, Ms. Delrossi, Ms. Doherty and Ms. Martin. Mayor Chau and Mr. Lay were absent.

Ms. Martin made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Robert Gignac, CFO of the Lowell Community Public Charter School to speak on item. 11.1; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) **APPROVED**

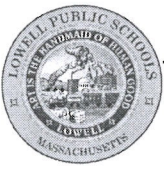
3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.1. Spotlight On Excellence – Kathryn P. Stoklosa Knowledge Bowl Competition 2023

The Spotlight on Excellence presentation featured the Daley School, champions of this year's Kathryn P. Stoklosa Knowledge Bowl Competition as well as the teams for all participating schools in the 2023 Knowledge Bowl. Ms. Rocheleau, Coordinator of Special Programs provided a brief overview of this year's competition and introduce the students and coaches. This year's second place winner was the Stoklosa Middle School and third place went to the Pyne/Arts School. Committee members thanked and congratulated all the participants for a job well done.

3.2. An Executive Session may be called to discuss collective bargaining, strategies and/or possible litigation under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws. Open Meeting Discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Ms. Martin made a motion to suspend the rules to allow the registered speakers to address the Committee; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) **APPROVED**



4. MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 27, 2023

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings as well as the FY24 Budget Session that were held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Wednesday May 3, 2023 and Thursday, May 4, 2023; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

4.2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings as well as the FY24 Budget Session that were held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Wednesday May 3, 2023 and Thursday, May 4, 2023; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

4.3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings as well as the FY24 Budget Session that were held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Wednesday May 3, 2023 and Thursday, May 4, 2023; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

4.4. Approval of the Minutes of the FY24 Budget Session of Thursday, May 4, 2023

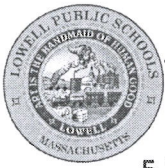
Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings as well as the FY24 Budget Session that were held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, Wednesday May 3, 2023 and Thursday, May 4, 2023; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

5. MOTIONS

5.1. [By Connie Martin]: Requesting a volunteer from the Lowell School Committee to serve on the Lowell High School Building Committee.

Ms. Delrossi made a motion and volunteered to serve on the Lowell High Building Committee to represent the School Committee; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED



5.2. [By Stacey Thompson]: Motion to the administration to have scholarship/grant discovery and preparation dates established for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 calendar to provide knowledge for students and families, increase access to funding opportunities and ensure equity for all students in the district. This is to begin this calendar year and exist on a yearly basis.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

5.3. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Motion to request that if one school committee member receives information from outside law firm BHBK or MASC that it is shared with the rest of the school committee as a communication via email so that we are all apprised of updated information and not one person is acting on behalf of school committee.

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

5.4. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a districtwide curriculum plan to educate elementary students regarding animal cruelty prevention. Curriculum options should include: educational programs, lesson plans through the MSPCA, subject-specific books, assemblies and/or field trips.

The following people registered and spoke on this motion:

Mr. Peter Cote
Ms. Sophia Aspilcueta
Ms. Aiyana Heng
Mr. Aden Simari

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

5.5. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide the Committee with a report in June that outlines facility improvements, costs, and timelines targeted to those schools most in need of repairs to support fair and adequate learning environments across the district. Priority schools include, but are not limited to, the Career Academy and the Bartlett Community Partnership School. For the Career Academy, the immediate concerns are to install the grant-funded \$25k in culinary equipment that has been in storage for six years, to upgrade bathrooms, and to provide for an outdoor physical activity space such as basketball. The Bartlett Community Partnership School also requires significant bathroom upgrades, replacement of lockers and missing ceiling/floor tiles throughout the school, as well as an immediate need for a temporary wheelchair ramp while waiting for a permanent one.

The following people registered and spoke on this motion:

Ms. Bella Figueroa
Ms. Maliya Um

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

LHS Honors Night 5/16

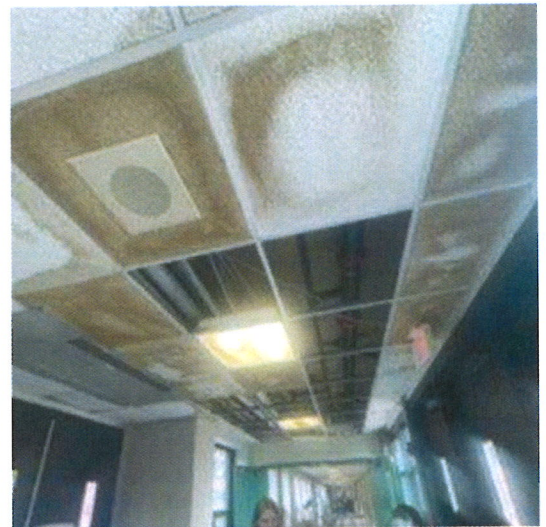
Sullivan School classroom—mouse droppings/dust

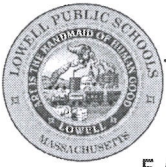


Bartlett school lockers

Bartlett Bathroom-no door

Bartlett Hallway missing ceiling tiles





5.6. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the district fund a Community School Manager position for the Career Academy as they have for all other community schools--returning the position that was removed when the grant expired. In addition, provide funding to the Career Academy based on the total number of students *currently matriculating* at the school rather than a much-lower student prediction. This should enable the addition of priority positions as requested by the Academy's School Site Council.

The following people registered and spoke on this motion:

Dr. Lauren Campion
Mr. Anthony Mitchell

Ms. Desmond will work with Dr. Campion and provide a plan for the Career Academy at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to reinstate the Community Schools Manager to the Career Academy and to charge it to the \$1.2 million dollars in the Alternative School line; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Chhoun. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

6. SUBCOMMITTEES

6.1. Special Education Subcommittee Meeting: Report and approval of the Meeting of Monday, May 1, 2023 [Eileen DelRossi, Chairperson]

Ms. Delrossi, Chairperson of the Special Education subcommittee informed the Committee that the subcommittee meeting was a follow up meeting from the previous special education subcommittee meeting. A presentation was provided to the subcommittee that gave an overview of the BeSafe report as well as a breakdown of priority projects and approximate costs at the Laura Lee school.

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to have a joint facilities subcommittee meeting to discuss the condition of the building with the administration providing a report with options and considerations moving forward; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

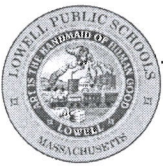
Ms. Thompson made a to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

7.1. Key Performance Indicators: Quarter Three Report

Mr. Skinner, Chief School Officer provided the Committee with a report that contained the 3rd Quarter update on the key performance indicators (KPI). KPI's identified fall within four (4) categories:

- Academic and Student Achievement
- Safe and Welcoming Environment
- Operational Efficiency, and Family
- Community Engagement



The report stated that overall the district saw some improvements on KPI measures between Quarter 3 of 2021-22 and Quarter 3 of 2022-23. The areas of growth included academics and student achievement, safe and welcoming environment, operational efficiency, and family and community engagement.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7.2. Response to Motion 30. COO of 05/03/23 by Jackie Doherty Regarding Air Quality in the 1980 Building

Ms. Martin made a motion to refer report regarding air quality in the 1980 Building to a facilities subcommittee; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7.3. Response to Motion 13. CAO of 05/03/23 by Jackie Doherty Regarding TV Studio at LHS

Ms. Martin made a motion to refer the report regarding the tv studio at LHS to a facilities subcommittee; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

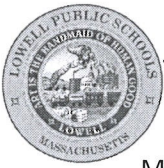
7.4. Response to Motion 02. CEE0 of 05/04/22 by Stacey Thompson Regarding DEI Training Efforts

Ms. Phillips, Chief Equity & Engagement Officer provided a report to the Committee that informed them that this year, required trainings were provided from the Equity Office for central office administrators, social workers, counselors, community schools managers, and family liaisons on understanding race, culture and identity. The report stated that additionally, school leaders and central office administrators were provided trainings on strengthening inclusive and equitable school environments for LGBTQIA+ youth delivered by DESE's Safe Schools Division as well as the Center for Hope and Healing. School leaders also provided a list of DEI school-wide trainings offered in SY 2022-2023, many of which were offered during required PD time for school staff. The data collected indicates that in the SY 2022-2023, a total of 109 different school-based initiatives were offered to teachers and staff to assist with DEI training.

Ms. Thompson asked if the clerks attend DEI training.

Ms. Phillips stated that one (1) training is organized for administrative assistants. She stated that she was discussing today having more in the future.

Ms. Thompson asked if the people who attended the training went on their own or was it a requirement.



Ms. Phillips stated that she can't really say, because they are school based trainings. She stated that she does want to ensure the district has a stronger system.

Ms. Thompson asked who conducts these trainings.

Ms. Phillips stated they have consultants do it.

Ms. Thompson stated that they need to be measured.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7.5. Response to Motion 4. CEEO of 05/18/23 by Susie Chhoun Regarding Cultural Events and Celebrations

Ms. Phillips, Chief Equity & Engagement Officer provided a report to the Committee that informed them that her office collected responses from each individual school on the cultural events and celebrations that took place in the 2021-22 school year, as well as events and celebrations during the current 2022-23 school year. The report stated that the data collected indicated that in the SY 2021-2022, a total of 215 cultural events and celebrations were hosted by the different school communities. The report stated that the data tool used was not intentional in gathering information on different ethnic groups celebrations and the office received a varied and diverse listing of all types of events and celebrations.

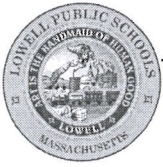
Ms. Chhoun stated that she'd like to see more on the website for the ELL families.

Ms. Thompson added that she would like to see a districtwide calendar.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7.6. Monthly Incident Report

Ms. Phillips, Chief Equity & Engagement Officer provided a report to the Committee that informed them that during the month of April 2023, forty-six (46) incidents were reported using the online reporting system. The report stated that thirty-six (36) investigations were completed on these incidents, and ten (10) are in process. During the month of April 2023, the completed investigations took an average of one (1) school day to launch an investigation and an average of 1.5 school days to complete. Based on feedback gathered from the community, including the anti-racism coalition, we revised the initial investigation feedback protocol, shifting it from being a technical and compliance driven tool to being a tool focused on restoration. The report stated that by doing this it means that instead of focusing on questions with a definitive set of responses to choose from, the district is focusing on open-ended questions which allow the impacted individual to describe their experience throughout the process in addition to their experience in the weeks following the close of the incident. The report also provided a follow up to the March incident report. There was a total of twenty-six (26) reports submitted from seven (7) elementary schools with seventeen (17) of these reports listing bullying as the incident type. Of these seventeen (17) reports, seven (7) were determined to be substantiated and a specific reason is not known.



for the increase in elementary reports during the month of March, but will continue to monitor the reporting trend across different grade levels.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

7.7. Monthly Enrollment Report

Committee deferred this to the next meeting and the report will include a registration update.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. FY24 Budget Adoption

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the Lowell Public Schools FY2024 final bottom-line figure at \$241,934,056 and to submit the FY2023 Budget to the City Manager; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

8.2. Vote to Reschedule the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting of June 7, 2023 Due to Lowell High School Graduation

Ms. Martin made a motion to reschedule the School Committee meeting to either June 8th or June 15, 2023 per availability of members; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

8.3. Permission to Post Graduation Mentor

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the Permission to Post: Graduation Mentor; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

8.4. Permission to Post: Director of Athletics

Ms. Thompson requested that the job description include anti-racism, anti-hazing and anti-bullying training.

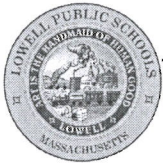
Ms. Delrossi made a motion to approve the Permission to Post: Director of Athletics; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

8.5. Vote to accept a donation of \$50,000 from the George M. Tsadikos Vocal Arts Scholarship

Ms. Martin asked who manages this money.

Ms. Desmond stated she will find out and provide that information to the Committee.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to accept a donation of \$50,000 from the George M. Tsadikos Vocal Arts Scholarship; seconded by Mr. Lay. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED



9. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

9.1. Out of State & Overnight Travel Request: For Lowell High School Boys/Girls Cross Country Team and Chaperones to Travel to Yonkers, NY

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to approve the convention/conference requests; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

10. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

10.1. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate Twenty-One [21] Sick Leave Days to Paula Renaud, Sullivan School Teacher.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to bundle and approve the professional personnel requests; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

10.2. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate Twenty-Three [23] Sick Leave Days to Kerry Darcy, STEM Academy Teacher.

Ms. Chhoun made a motion to bundle and approve the professional personnel requests; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.1. Communication from Chief Operating Officer Regarding an upcoming Substance Abuse Community Forum

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the communication and to place it on file; seconded by Ms. Chhoun. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.1. Item: Discussion of contract of Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to recess at 8:54 p.m. and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, strategies and/or possible litigation under open meeting law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws related to discussion of the contract of Chief Academic Officer/Assistant Superintendent, of which open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and to adjourn from Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED



13. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to recess at 8:54 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mayor Chau, Mr. Lay) APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D., Superintendent and
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

JDB/mes